

From: John Oswald
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
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Subject: MS case

I read that MS is offering 1 billion in aid to schools in software and refurbished hardware. All this will do is lead to further need for expenditures on new MS products and more hardware for these schools thus paying MS back for it's so-called settlement. If they really want to settle it, they should put the whole billion into new and refurbished hardware and allow open source software makers provide the software for free! Since 99% of the work done on any computer is web surfing, email, and simple word processing and spreadsheet work it seems reasonable that since software that can provide these services in an exemplary fashion is available free and will run on used computers which cost as little as \$75, the billion dollars from MS could go a lot further, help a lot more and be more of a real 'settlement' than something that simply generates more revenues for MS. This benefits the schools in that they can get more computers and get more use of the older ones they already have, the students can take all of the software home and use it on computers there as it is freely distributable, and finally, the poorer families may be better able to afford an old Pentium computer for \$75 than a new \$1500 machine thus allowing more students to be able to do work at home and not just those with parents who can afford a machine that's compatible with the ones in the schools running on MS. This is an all around winner for the schools, the students, and MS still gets its settlement.

Just my 2 cents. Thanks.

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